

JUN 08 2004

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant(s): P. Bonutti and J. Hawkins

Confirmation No. 7013

Application No.: 09/992,211

Attorney Docket No: 780-A02-003-2

Filed: November 16, 2001

Group Art Unit: 3731

For: EXPANDABLE CANNULA

Examiner: M. Thaler

RESPONSE TO FINAL OFFICE ACTION

Mail Stop AF
Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Dear Sir:

In response to the Final Office Action mailed April 9, 2004, please enter the following amendments and remarks into the file of the above-entitled application. In accordance with USPTO practice, each section of this Amendment begins on a separate sheet.

Applicants respectfully request entry of this Response under the provisions of 37 C.F.R. §1.116(a) in that the amendments and remarks below place the application and claims in condition for allowance, or, at least, present the application in better form for appeal. Reconsideration and allowance of the pending claims in view of the following are respectfully requested.

CERTIFICATE OF FACSIMILE TRANSMISSION

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being facsimile transmitted to:

Fax # (703) 872-9308

COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS, ALEXANDRIA, VA 22313

ATTENTION Examiner M. Thaler

On June 8, 2004

Paul D. Bianco

Name of Person Transmitting Facsimile

Signature of Person Transmitting Facsimile